UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR

2542nd MEETING: 25 MAY 1984

NEW YORK

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Documents of the Security Council (symbol S/. . .) are normally published in quarterly *Supplements* of the *Official Records of the Security Council*. The date of the document indicates the supplement in which it appears or in which information about it is given.

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2542nd MEETING

Held in New York on Friday, 25 May 1984, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Oleg A. TROYANOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

Present: The representatives of the following States: China, Egypt, France, India, Malta, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Zimbabwe.

Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/2542)

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Letter dated 21 May 1984 from the representatives of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/16574)

The meeting was called to order at 3.50 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Letter dated 21 May 1984 from the representatives of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/16574)

1. The PRESIDENT [*interpretation from Russian*]: In accordance with the decisions taken at the previous meeting [*2541st meeting*], I invite the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Information of Kuwait and the representative of Saudi Arabia to take places at the Council table, and I invite the representatives of Bahrain, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Senegal, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen to take the places reserved for them at the side of the Council chamber.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al-Sabah (Kuwait) and Mr. Shihabi (Saudi Arabia) took places at the Council table; Mr. Al-Sabbagh (Bahrain), Mr. Ali (Oman), Mr. Kam (Panama), Mr. Al-Thani (Qatar), Mr. Sarré (Senegal), Mr. Al-Musfir (United Arab Emirates) and Mr. Sallam (Yemen) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council chamber.

2. The PRESIDENT [*interpretation from Russian*]: I should like to inform members of the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Ecuador, Jordan, Somalia and the Sudan in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Albornoz (Ecuador), Mr. Salah (Jordan), Mr. Adan (Somalia) and Mr. Birido (Sudan) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council chamber.

3. The PRESIDENT [*interpretation from Russian*]: The first speaker is the representative of Jordan. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

4. Mr. SALAH (Jordan) [*interpretation from Arabic*]: Mr. President, I wish to thank the members of the Council for allowing my participation in the Council's discussion and to congratulate you most sincerely on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. Having had the honour of working with you personally when Jordan was a member of the Council, I have first-hand knowledge of your eminent qualities and diplomatic skill. The good relations between our countries make it all the more gratifying to us that this grave responsibility should fall to you. Your country's support for Arab rights makes me all the more pleased to see you in the Chair. We are certain that the Council will adopt important and effective resolutions under your able guidance. I wish also to take this occasion to commend your predecessor, Mr. Vladimir Kravets, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, for his adept conduct of the Council's work last month.

5. The Council is meeting to discuss a question vital to the freedom of international navigation in the Gulf region and to the security and stability of the States members of the Gulf Co-operation Council, which have submitted a collective complaint regarding Iranian air attacks on Saudi and Kuwaiti tankers in the territorial waters of the States members of that Council, and against other ships in international waters.

6. Iran's raids on Saudi and Kuwaiti tankers, as well as its attack on civilian shipping in international waters, constitute a grave development in the Gulf region. This gravity is reflected in two aspects: first, the illegality

and illegitimacy of those attacks; secondly, the political consequences of their continuation.

7. For more than two weeks Iran has been trying to impose a military blockade on neighbouring Arab States. The continued arbitrary attacks against civilian commercial tankers and ships in the Gulf are aimed at imposing an economic blockade on the States of the Gulf Co-operation Council by force. Iran's action is a flagrant violation of the principles of international law. Having attacked peaceful civilian commercial targets of States not parties to its war with Iraq, which has been going on for almost four years, Iran bears responsibility for the war's continuation. Some of the tankers that were attacked were in Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti territorial waters or within those States' exclusive economic zones. Other ships were attacked in international waters. Furthermore, fraternal Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, in addition to the other members of the Gulf Co-operation Council, have declared their neutrality with regard to the Iran-Iraq war and have sought, individually and collectively, to maintain the neutrality of the Gulf, with respect not only to this war, but also to international competition and rivalry among the major Powers. Indeed, those States have made positive endeavours to put an end to the war. Thus the Iranian military operations in international waters and against civilian targets in the ports of the Arab States of the Gulf are unwarranted acts of aggression posing a grave threat to the vital interests, national economy, sovereignty and safety of those countries.

8. The resulting tension in the region, which poses a threat to the safety of international shipping, represents a serious escalation and extension of the Iraq-Iran war and could have grave consequences. Iranian military operations against international shipping and against the facilities of the Gulf States are in contravention of the principles of international law and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, which prohibit threats against the territorial integrity and stability of States and ban the threat or use of force in international relations. Moreover, Iran's actions violate the principle of maintaining good-neighbourly relations and the laws of neutrality. If Iran had a complaint against the Gulf States, it should have brought it to the Security Council.

9. Iran's disregard for the principles of international law and the provisions of the Charter stands in contrast to the responsible position taken by the Arab States that have been the object of recent Iranian attacks, by members of the Gulf Co-operation Council and by other members of the League of Arab States. Both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia—the two States adversely affected—have, as a matter of principle, shown a readiness to accept Iran's apology and a desire not to escalate the situation. They have used peaceful means, through internationally recognized regional and world channels. They have taken diplomatic measures within the Gulf Co-operation Council and within the League of Arab States, which have a joint defence treaty. Now they ask the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities.

10. We in Jordan cannot accept the pretexts by which Iran is seeking to justify its attempt to impose an economic blockade of the Gulf States and to intimidate those States. If political and economic relations maintained by certain States with Iran or Iraq are a justification for attacking those States by either of the two belligerents, I assure members of the Council that a large number of States Members of the United Nations could possibly be the targets of attacks, not only by Iran but by other States as well. Many wars and armed conflicts are in progress in the world, and all the parties to those wars maintain military, economic and political relations with the majority of States in the world. It is inconceivable that such relations should in any way be considered to be a justification for changing the internationally accepted definitions of neutrality and of the state of war.

11. In the particular case of Iran, the facts show something very close to a violation of the laws of neutrality and other international obligations, but they have not provoked anyone to the point of a declaration of war. On the contrary, Iran is receiving military and political assistance from numerous States both within and outside the region.

12. The illegality and illegitimacy of recent Iranian acts of aggression in the Gulf region against tankers and other ships belonging to Arab and other States are obvious, and I need not dwell on them. More important —and more dangerous—is the political magnitude of these Iranian practices. First of all, this escalation by Iran undermines the principle of the neutrality of the Gulf. The States members of the Gulf Co-operation Council have been trying to keep this vitally important region free from big-Power rivalry and contention, and I believe that those States have earned our admiration and gratitude for their persistent endeavours and for their determination to transform the region into a place of international co-operation and mutual benefit rather than letting it be drawn into the terrible quagmire of international polarization, whose negative effects are felt in more than one part of the world.

13. In addition, the States of the region have not retreated into isolation. We are all aware of the positive role played by those States on the international scene, both economically and politically. They have always supported the voice of reason and moderation and have always stood for the values of tolerance, rationality and open-mindedness. But Iran's position *vis-à-vis* those States has become a threat to all these positive values and positions. Iran's current military actions against these Gulf States appear to be an element in a political campaign aimed at stifling them economically with the ultimate view of destabilizing them, strangling their public life and undermining the cultural values they embody, such values as tolerance, co-existence and openness to various cultures and ideas of the world.

14. Iran's recent action amounts to a use of military force to destroy the economic basis of the political stability and security of the States of the region. It takes on dangerous strategic dimensions affecting the security of the Arab nation. We in Jordan are following this closely and with the utmost concern. Israel's expansionist plans and its aspirations for new strategic positions in the Arab world cause us to be gravely concerned about Arab security and attempts to undermine the steadfastness and stability of any Arab country.

15. On another level, everybody is aware of the strategic importance of the commodity which has become the target of Iranian aggression. International economic stability depends primarily on the continued supply of energy and crude oil. Hence, impeding the peaceful commercial shipping of that commodity poses a direct threat to the security and stability of the world. Iran must be made to realize the magnitude of its current actions against its Arab neighbours. Its attempt to hinder the shipment of this important commodity could give rise to incalculable military and political dangers. Thus, Iran's attempt to obstruct international shipping and the threat it poses to Gulf security could result in instability in the region which, in turn, could lead to foreign military interventions, which would not be in the interest of international peace and security.

16. I can affirm that the concern of Jordan and the Arab world as a whole at the current threat to the security of the Gulf States arises not only from important international strategic considerations. The stability and security of the Gulf and the integrity of that part of the Arab nation, along with the values and heritage it represents and its support for Arab rights, constitute another major source of Jordan's concern at the current attempts to destabilize that part of the Arab homeland. Hence it is incumbent upon the Council promptly to condemn these actions, which represent a grave threat to the sovereignty, independence and welfare of the States of the region, as well as a danger to regional and international peace and security.

17. Iran must be made to understand that the Council has the ability to take the necessary actions to prevent a repetition of such acts and that there are other more peaceful and effective means available to Iran to end its war with Iraq: diplomatic means. Iran could also pursue a better path in order to live in peace and harmony with its neighbours: the path of co-operation and peace, instead of confrontation and war.

18. Finally, we hope that the Council will meet the challenge confronting it on this occasion.

19. The PRESIDENT [*interpretation from Russian*]: I now invite the representative of Ecuador to take a place at the Council table and to make a statement.

20. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) [*interpretation from Spanish*]: Mr. President, I thank you for being kind enough to allow me to participate in this debate. I should like to reiterate my delegation's satisfaction at the fact that you are presiding over the Council, in view of your experience and your ability in handling the work of this paramount United Nations body. I should like also to pay a tribute to the previous President, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

21. In the complex and important situation which the Council has been considering, fundamental principles of international coexistence are involved which are essential for Ecuador, such as respect for the territorial integrity of States, the non-use of force in international relations, the peaceful settlement of disputes, free navigation and trade in international waters and innocent passage in national waters.

22. For these reasons Ecuador has deemed it fitting to make itself heard in this debate on a situation which is of great concern to all regions of the world. Ecuador has cordial relations with the countries involved in this conflict. These countries belong to a region which has with our own region common roots and traditions of history and culture. Paraphrasing the maxim of the International Labour Organization that poverty anywhere in the world is a threat to prosperity everywhere, it might be said, similarly, that violence anywhere in the world is a threat to peace everywhere.

23. The Gulf region has become an area of great sensitivity and importance for peace and for the world economy. Situations have arisen which have forced the sovereign will of certain countries that are not parties to the regrettable hostilities in the Gulf and have induced them to take part in a warlike situation, with calamitous consequences. This is inadmissible and dangerous for the international community.

24. The Security Council is traditionally the guardian of the principle of non-intervention, that of the non-use of force and, correlatively, that of the peaceful settlement of disputes. These principles must be converted into reality more by successful actions than by the proliferation of debates which have taken place on this subject in a number of bodies in the United Nations system, such as the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations.

25. The resolutions of the Council aimed at the effective implementation of peaceful settlements of disputes may also constitute a response to the clamour of the peoples concerned. That is why my delegation has insisted on the necessity of establishing specific rules and practical and effective machinery, as set forth in the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes [*General Assembly resolution 37/10 of 15 November 1982, annex*] and as advocated by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

26. The principle of banning the threat or use of force in relations among States is at the basis of international

law, and without it there could not be any legal coexistence, nor could the United Nations exist. Our civilization requires that the conduct of States be brought into line with that basic principle, and success in that regard would mean the complete rule of law in a civilized world. In fact, the Charter bans not only war but also the threat or use of force. In keeping with the same principle, the internationally organized community also bans economic, political and other forms of pressure, that is, anything constituting the essence of intervention. In the principle of the non-use of force, the inviolability of the territory of States is an essential element. In accordance with the same principle, States must refrain not only from the threat or use of force but also from violating existing borders as a means of settling their international disputes.

27. For Ecuador in particular and for Latin America in general, the principle of the non-use of force and that of the legal coexistence of States are one and the same. The principle of the non-use of force is directly related to the obligation under the Charter to settle international disputes by peaceful means. Therefore membership in the United Nations implies a commitment to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and also implies a commitment to practice tolerance and to live in peace with one's neighbours.

28. As for Latin America, in the Declaration and Plan of Action recently adopted by consensus at the Latin American Economic Conference, held at Quito on 12 and 13 January 1984, the heads of State or representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean countries reaffirmed the principle of the equality and solidarity of peoples wishing to live within the framework of democratic principles, as well as the full exercise of human rights and the benefits of progress for all inhabitants, in an atmosphere free from external pressure, threats and aggression. In particular, the participants of that conference stated the following in article 2 of the Declaration:

> "We reiterate our commitment to eliminate once and for all any recourse to the threat or the use of force in the solution of international conflicts. We once again call for disarmament that will make it possible to reallocate the resources squandered on the arms race and armaments towards objectives which contribute to strengthening the development of all the peoples of the world. There is an essential link between the problems of peace and of development, since without peace, development will be unattainable, and without development, peace will always be precarious."[1]

29. The present case, which has regrettable and dangerous aspects, and the continuation of which could endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, is all the more complex because it is taking place in a region which has been the scene of a continuing cruel state of war, which must be ended. This may be the right time for the Council to stop this armed conflict between Iran and Iraq and promote the solutions advocated from time to time by the very protagonists in this regrettable situation. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference have also taken important initiatives aimed at restoring peace to the region.

30. Furthermore, the recent events have violated the principle of free navigation and the free passage of commerce, with grave consequences for world economic stability and repercussions elsewhere for the supplies of many Member States.

31. Finally, there is an unacceptable situation of recourse to coercive action clearly constituting the use and threat of the use of force, aiming to extend the conflict to other countries in the region, with a clear threat to their territorial integrity.

32. For this reason, the delegation of Ecuador has come to the Council to express its earnest hope that we shall see prevail the spirit of the peaceful settlement of disputes, the wisdom to implement international law and the need to show in critical situations, such as the one before us, the effectiveness of the institutions created by the international community, which has placed its hopes in the Council, the best instrument of law to preserve or restore peace.

33. The PRESIDENT [*interpretation from Russian*]: The next speaker is the representative of the Sudan, whom I invite to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

34. Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan) [*interpretation from Arabic*]: Allow me, Mr. President, to extend to you and the other members of the Council our sincere thanks for giving my delegation the opportunity to participate in the Council's deliberations on the item under discussion.

35. I also extend to you warm congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. We are confident that your long diplomatic and political experience, for which you are well know, will enable you to guide the Council's work to the success that we all seek and for which the whole international community yearns.

36. I also take this opportunity to extend thanks to your predecessor, Mr. Vladimir Kravets, representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, for his skill and competence during his presidency of the Council in April.

37. Having heard all the comprehensive and clear statements from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Information of Kuwait, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar and other speakers, I need not dwell at length on the grave action taken by Iran in committing aggression against

oil-tankers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait. What increases our concern is the fact that this unwarranted aggression took place in the territorial waters of the States of the Gulf Co-operation Council and outside the theatre of operations of a regrettable war which has entered its fourth year.

38. The Iranian act of aggression against the Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian oil-tankers clearly threatens the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the States of the region. It is also a flagrant threat to the freedom of navigation in international waters and waterways leading to and from the ports of all the Gulf coastal States. We also feel that this aggression is a violation of the principles of international law and the provisions of the Convention on the High Seas of 1958,[2] which places freedom of navigation at the forefront of the freedoms enjoyed by all States; the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982;[3] the regional conventions concluded by the States of the region; and other international conventions in this regard.

39. The complaint lodged with the Council by six of the Member States which are known for their respect for the principles of good-neighbourliness and their commitment to the objectives of the Charter and of other regional and international organizations to which they belong, clearly reflects the deteriorating situation in that sensitive region as a result of the recent Iranian act of aggression against Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti ships. Such an act could lead to widening the scope of the war and threatening the peace and stability of the States of the region and the whole world, involving those States in the rivalry and contention of the major Powers, and destabilizing the international economy as well as obstructing the efforts of developing countries towards construction, progress and development.

40. The Sudan has stated on several occasions in the Council and in other forums that the bleak picture that characterizes the current international situation requires all Member States to consolidate policies of peace and good-neighbourliness and to honour their commitments under the Charter on the non-use or threat of the use of force in international relations against the territorial integrity and political independence of any State.

41. It is regrettable that the acts of aggression against ships of two Member States run counter to the aims and objectives of the international community in that region, especially the conditions which it is striving to bring about among neighbouring States, such as Iran and its neighbours, which are bound by many links of religion, culture and history. Such links should have promoted relations of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect for sovereignty, independence and non-intervention in the internal affairs of these States. These links should have been a firm foundation for fruitful co-operation in all fields, including the harnessing of all their potential and resources in the interest of progress and development and in the confrontation of the genuinely fateful threats to the region and to the aspirations of its peoples.

42. This incident has once more highlighted the need for the Council to assume its responsibility to condemn and put an end to this aggression in view of its potentially destabilizing threat to the peace and security of the region and to the legitimate interests of its States and of the entire world. Moreover, the Council should also ensure against a repetition of such acts of aggression against ships sailing to and from the ports of States not parties to the hostilities, thus safeguarding freedom of navigation in the region. To that end, the Council is duty-bound to adopt effective measures required by the situation, by calling upon Iran to desist from aggression, to respect the sovereignty of the States of the region, their territorial integrity, their waterways, ports and economic installations, to fulfil the obligations of good-neighbourliness and to comply with the principles of the Charter and international law.

43. We reaffirm our belief that the only way to end once and for all the Iran-Iraq conflict is through dialogue and objective negotiation within the framework of international norms of law and legitimacy.

44. It is regrettable that the efforts of the international community, represented by the Council, and those of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the initiatives of the Gulf States themselves have not led to the cessation of the bloodshed and hostilities that have claimed the lives of thousands of victims in two neighbouring States.

45. Hence we feel that this act of aggression once again highlights the need for the Council to assume its responsibility to intensify its efforts at putting an end to this war and restoring peace and security to the States of the region and to the entire world.

46. The PRESIDENT [*interpretation from Russian*]: The next speaker is the representative of Panama. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

47. Mr. KAM (Panama) [*interpretation from Spanish*]: I am sincerely pleased, Sir, to return to the Security Council table under your presidency of this important body. It was my personal privilege to share with you the work of the Council in 1981 and 1982, and I was an eyewitness to your great experience, well-known diplomatic skill and sober judgement. I am convinced that under your leadership the Council will demonstrate restraint and a spirit of justice as it resolves the difficult issues on its agenda.

48. I would like to convey my delegation's congratulations to Mr. Vladimir Kravets, representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on his outstanding job as the President of the Council in April.

49. Panama deplored the Iran-Iraq conflict from its very inception and unequivocally supported a just, peaceful and honourable settlement for both sides. As

members of the Council in 1981 and 1982, we supported the resolutions unanimously adopted by the Council to put an end to that fratricidal war. We have consistently supported the decisions of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the resolutions of the General Assembly aimed at the same goal. We have also supported the peace efforts of the Secretary-General and those of his Special Representative, Mr. Olof Palme, the Prime Minister of Sweden.

50. Panama's position on this conflict has been consistent with our record as a peace-loving country that promotes international co-operation and unswervingly advocates the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

51. For this reason, we cannot help feeling indignant and outraged over the fact that ships flying the Panamanian flag have been victims of armed attacks in the Gulf region.

52. The international press has reported these events in recent days following the sinking of the Panamanian freighter *Fidelity* which resulted in the death of a number of its crew members.

53. However, I should like to draw to the attention of the Council that armed attacks on vessels flying the Panamanian flag in the Gulf region go back to May of 1981. On 21 May 1981, the Panamanian freighter *Louis I* was attacked. Subsequently, on 11 January 1982, an attack on the freighter *Success* set it ablaze, requiring abandonment. On 15 May 1983, the Panamanian oil-tanker *Pan Oceanic* caught fire as a result of an air attack. On 25 May 1983, the Panamanian vessel *Seatrans* was damaged as a result of an air attack.

54. In more recent weeks, the renewed outbreak of hostilities between Iran and Iraq has also brought with it an intensification of attacks which, unjustifiably, have been repeated against Panamanian vessels. On 18 April of this year, the tanker *Rover Star* was damaged in an air attack. On 14 May, the Panamanian oil-tanker *Esperanza II* caught fire in another air attack. Today, the international news press agencies have reported further attacks on vessels flying the Panamanian flag.

55. However, as we denounce these facts, we do not wish to get involved in the sterile exercise of recriminations, nor do we wish to level any accusations against either side. We are advocates of positive solutions —solutions which preserve our rights and interests as the country with the world's fourth largest merchant fleet.

56. We denounce these incidents in the Security Council because we feel that this body, charged with maintaining international peace and security, cannot remain indifferent to these renewed attacks on Panamanian vessels devoted to peaceful trade.

57. My country makes an urgent appeal to the parties to the conflict to refrain from further hostile acts against Panamanian vessels and to respect and implement scrupulously the principles of international law enshrining the principle of freedom of navigation and guaranteeing innocent passage for merchant vessels.

58. We also appeal to both sides to abide by the fundamental norms of humanitarian international law, which oblige respect for civilian objectives and protection for the lives and physical well-being of those not participating in hostilities—and this would certainly apply to Panamanian vessels and their crews.

59. We must emphatically declare that Panama is not at war with anyone, nor is it party to any armed conflict. Our merchant marine occupies a prominent position in the world maritime community; it has not been, it is not, nor will it be an instrument of war. It is an unparalleled vehicle for peace and international co-operation and is engaged in peaceful commerce and economic trade among nations. Consequently, we demand that all parties show respect for our vessels, consistent with their status.

60. My delegation urges the Council to carry out its functions under the Charter and to take action to ensure that there should be no recurrence of attacks against Panamanian vessels or against ships of countries not party to the conflict. Similarly, we call on the Council to take action to ensure that the right of free navigation and trade in international waters may be effectively exercised by my country and all other countries.

61. We call on the parties immediately to cease all hostilities in the Gulf region, including all maritime corridors, navigable waterways, port facilities, terminals, off-shore structures and all ports with direct or indirect access to the sea.

62. We urge Iran and Iraq to refrain from intensifying the armed conflict which has already caused so much destruction and death. We urge them to set aside the use of force and to embark on the path of the peaceful settlement of their dispute through dialogue and negotiation. That is certainly the only path to a just and lasting peace.

63. Finally, my delegation wishes to reiterate its faith in United Nations actions, particularly in the action of the Security Council, of which we have had the honour to be a member on many occasions. Panama is a small country, possessing no force other than the moral force deriving from our unwavering support for the principles, objectives and purposes of the Charter, to which we have recourse today.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

NOTES

[1] See A/39/118—E/1984/45, annex.

[2] See United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 450, No. 6465.

[3] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII, document A/CONF.62/122.

Litho in United Nations, New York 00300 90-61313—January 1993—2,050